

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 FAA-00 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 101901Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1683

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18924

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, FR, CD, GV, SG, NG, WR, IV.

SUBJ: FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, REMOVILLE,
BRIEFED EMBOFF JULY 9 ON DEVELOPMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. CHAD. GOC HAD MISUNDERSTOOD GOF ATTITUDE TOWARD
CHADIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN FRANCE. GOF EXPLAINED
THAT IT DOES NOT CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER FOREIGN
STUDENTS AND WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH FRIENDLY
GOVERNMENTS, SHORT OF HERDING THESE STUDENTS ON TO
AIRPLANES FOR REPATRIATION. GOC WAS SATISFIED BY
THIS EXPLANATION BUT DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH ANTI-
FRENCH DEMONSTRATION AS SCHEDULED. DEMONSTRATION
WAS QUIET AND ATTENDED BY ONLY 10,000 RATHER THAN
PLANNED 40,000. QUAI IS NOT GREATLY CONCERNED.

3. OCAM. DEPARTURE OF CHAD AND CAMEROON FROM OCAM
MERELY CONFIRMS REVOLVING MEMBERSHIP OF THIS PRIVATE
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CLUB, WHICH HAS ALSO GAINED NEW MEMBERS IN THE LAST

YEAR. GOF ORIGINALLY SPONSORED THIS CLUB BUT NOW OCAM HAS BECOME ENTIRELY AFRICAN AFFAIR. GOF NOW MORE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN LARGER ORGANS SUCH AS OAU, PARTICULARLY CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN MODERATES AND RADICALS. GOF CONTINUES TO BELIEVE OCAM SERVES USEFUL PURPOSE BY ENCOURAGING SOLIDARITY AMONG MODERATES, WHO ARE OTHERWISE AT A DISADVANTAGE FACED BY CONSISTENT RADICAL VICTORIES WITHIN OAU FRAMEWORK.

4. AIR AFRIQUE. FAL HAD PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY CRITICIZED SENGHOR TO POINT WHERE LATTER FORCED HIM OUT AS AIR AFRIQUE PDG. SENEGAL CANNOT BE ASSURED OF CONTINUING TO PROVIDE CHIEF EXECUTIVE SINCE IVORY COAST HAS STRONGER POSITION ON AIR AFRIQUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THIS INCIDENT DOES NOT ENDANGER CONTINUATION OF AIR AFRIQUE.

5. RWANDA. RECENT COUP ONLY REFLECTED PROBLEM OF UNDER-REPRESENTED NORTHERN HUTUS RESENTMENT AGAINST POWER OF SOUTHERN HUTUS; THEREFORE LESS SERIOUS THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN INCIDENT INVOLVING BASIC ETHNIC RIVALRY BETWEEN HUTUS AND WATUSIS. GOF HOPES THAT NEW MILITARY REGIME WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH VIABLE EQUILIBRIUM. FRENCH DIPLOMATS IN RWANDA ARE NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT RESULTS.

6. IVORY COAST. RECENT PLOT BY SMALL NUMBER OF INEFFECTUOUS YOUNG OFFICERS DID NOT TRIGGER ANY GENERAL UPRISING AGAINST HOUPHOUET. HE IS SOLIDLY ENTRENCHED. ALTHOUGH IMPRESSED BY RADICAL POSITIONS ON SUCH MATTERS AS MIDDLE EAST AT RECENT OAU MEETING, HOUPHOUET REMAINS COMMITTED TO MODERATE LINE. PROSPERITY OF IVORY COAST DEMONSTRATES ADVANTAGE WHICH AFRICAN COUNTRIES CAN DERIVE FROM COOPERATING WITH THE WEST RATHER THAN PURSUING RADICAL LINE EMBODIED BY GUINEA. DURING CURRENT WEEK'S VISIT TO PARIS, HOUPHOUET CONFERRED JULY 6 WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AFTER WHICH HE WAS QUOTED AS CONFIRMING "THE EXTRA-ORDINARY RELATIONS BETWEEN IVORY COAST AND

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FRANCE."

7. NIGER. ON JULY 6 POMPIDOU ALSO RECEIVED PRESIDENT DIORI HAMANI, WHO WAS INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO DRAUGHT-RIDDEN CENTRAL AFRICA. GOF HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED IMPRESSIVE FINANCIAL AID TO SAHEL AREA, WHICH APPARENTLY SATISFIED DIORI HAMANI.

8. COMMENT. CONSIDERING NUMBER OF DISCORDS PRESENTLY INVOLVING FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, REMOVILLE APPEARS REMARKABLY UNPERTURBED. HE IS PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF FRENCH RELATIONS WITH FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES. HE IS NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SHORT RUN FORECASTS BUT ALSO NOT OPTIMISTIC FOR LONG RUN. HE SEES DANGER OF THESE COUNTRIES RETURNING TO STATE OF RELATIVE PRIMITIVISM IN THEIR NATIONAL POLICIES, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY TOURE OF GUINEA AND AMIN OF UGANDA. CONFRONTATION BETWEEN RADICALISM AND MODERATION IS CLEARLY QUAI'S MAJOR PREOCCUPATION IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA AND THUS FAR IT CONSIDERS THAT GOF POLICIES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAINED BALANCE IN COPING WITH THIS CONFRONTATION.

GDS.
IRWIN

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